

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 129

FOLLOWING REPEAT USINFO 121900Z ACTION STATE OPS CENTER,  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

QUOTE

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STATE OPS CENTER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO DAVID GOMPERT  
FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP - III (TAKE TWO OF THREE)

LONDON:

BRITISH PAPERS WEDNESDAY, RELYING HEAVILY ON CORRESPONDENT  
REPORTS, REFLECTED A MOOD OF SOME EXPECTANCY THAT PROGRESS TOWARD  
PEACE WILL BE MADE ON THIS TRIP. A TIMES OF LONDON CORRESPONDENT  
IN CAIRO SAID THAT "IN SPITE OF AN UNDERLYING UNCERTAINTY, EGYPTIAN  
OFFICIALS REMAIN QUIETLY CONFIDENT THAT DR. KISSINGER WILL SUCCEED  
IN HIS LATEST MIDDLE EAST MISSION."

A FINANCIAL TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT SAID "SENIOR PALEST-  
INIAN SOURCES" IN BEIRUT, "ALONG WITH THE SYRIANS AND THE RUSSIANS--  
ALL OF WHOM HAVE SO FAR VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED DR. KISSINGER'S  
GRADUALIST DIPLOMACY--HAVE GRUDGINGLY AGREED TO SOME FLEXIBILITY ON  
THE ISSUE" OF COMPROMISE ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI.

A DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENT IN CAIRO SAID DR. KISSINGER'S  
TASK WOULD BE MADE EASIER BY THE DETERMINATION OF THE EGYPTIAN  
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GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, "BUT AT THE

SAME TIME IT IS BEING MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT IS NOT READY FOR PEACE AT ANY PRICE AND WILL NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE DETACHED FROM ITS ARAB ALLIES."

A CAIRO CORRESPONDENT FOR THE GUARDIAN SAID, "IT IS A DIMINISHED DR. KISSINGER WHO IS EXPECTED HERE...HIS REPUTATION AS A JOVIAL, BEAR-HUGGING HOMEOPATH OF PEACE HAS BEEN IMPAIRED IN ARAB OPINION BY THE REVELATION IN HIM OF THE GUNBOAT DIPLOMAT."

WEST GERMANY:

CORRESPONDENTS REPORTED THAT SESSIONS IN JERUSALEM WERE HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER RAN A DPA STORY THAT DR. KISSINGER WAS CARRYING TO CAIRO A CONCRETE ISRAELI PROPOSAL PROVIDING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES BETWEEN 20 AND 50 KILOMETERS IN THE SINAI WITHOUT ABANDONING THE PASSES AND OIL FIELDS. IN RETURN, IT SAID, ISRAEL EXPECTS FROM EGYPT SOME "POLITICAL GESTURE IN THE DIRECTION OF PEACE." IT SAID FURTHER THAT DR. KISSINGER OBVIOUSLY HAD SUCCEEDED IN MODIFYING "UNREALISTIC" ISRAELI DEMANDS FOR FORMAL EGYPTIAN RENUNCIATION OF FORCE.

DIE WELT OF HAMBURG RAN A JERUSALEM-CAIRO REPORT THAT DR. KISSINGER REPORTEDLY CONSIDERS THE ISRAELI POSITION TO BE UNREALISTIC.

THE PAPER WAS AMONG SEVERAL REPORTING STATEMENTS IN RABAT BY AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY FAVORING A EUROPEAN-ARAB DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF PREVENTING ANOTHER MIDEAST WAR. HE SAID HIS VISIT TO NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AN ATTEMPT AT COMPETING WITH KISSINGER'S OR GROMYKO'S EFFORTS AT SETTLING THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

ON U.S. TRAINING OF TROOPS IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SAID SENATORS JACKSON AND HUMPHREY WERE PUZZLED UNTIL INFORMED THAT TRAINEES WERE FOR THE ROYAL PALACE AND NOT TO GUARD OIL FIELDS.

WEST BERLIN:

BERLINER MORGENPOST SAID WEDNESDAY THAT MR. KISSINGER HAD GOT HIS FINGERS BURNED AND "THEREFORE DOES NOT TIRE OF DESCRIBING HIS MIDEAST MISSION...AS A MERE EXPLORATORY TRIP. KISSINGER'S ONCE SO FASCINATING FOREIGN POLICY HAS SUFFERED ONE SHIPWRECK AFTER ANOTHER IN VIETNAM, TURKEY, GREECE AND PORTUGAL. IF A TOTAL FAILURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE DIPLOMATIC SUPERSTAR OF YESTERDAY WOULD HARDLY SURVIVE BACK IN WASHINGTON..."

PRO-SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT SAID GROMYKO HAD "GONE TO THE EGYPTIAN CAPITAL LAST WEEK TO BOYCOTT KISSINGER'S ENVISAGED UNCLASSIFIED

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SETTLEMENT BY STAGES. THE SOVIETS WANT TO RECONQUER THE GROUND THEY HAVE LOST IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE CONCESSIONS THEY MADE TO THE ARABS WILL BECOME EVIDENT WHEN KISSINGER GOES TO CAIRO, FOR IT IS A FACT THAT THIS TIME SADAT CANNOT DODGE A STRAIGHT ANSWER..."

PARIS:

FIGARO REPORTED TODAY FROM JERUSALEM THAT "IT IS ONLY AFTER MR. KISSINGER'S RETURN TO JERUSALEM THURSDAY NIGHT OR FRIDAY MORNING THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO KNOW WHETHER HIS TRIP WILL BE SUCCESSFUL

OR IF IT WILL REPRESENT HIS LAST EFFORT TO PREVENT HIS POLICY OF PEACE BY STEPS FROM BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A POLICY OF PEACE THROUGH CONFRONTATION SOUGHT BY THE ARABS AND THE RUSSIANS IN GENEVA."

INTELLECTUAL-LEFT LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS ASSERTED WEDNESDAY THAT "A DRAMATIC MIDEAST DEVELOPMENT IS BELIEVED TO BE IMPENDING." IT SAID GEORGE HABASH'S REMARKS FAVORING ANOTHER WAR "SHARPLY CONTRAST WITH THOSE OF YASSIR ARAFAT...WHO ON THE CONTRARY BELIEVES THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE POSSIBILITY OF 'ESTABLISHING THEIR FULL SOVEREIGNTY ON PART OF THEIR HOMELAND TERRITORY.' ...THIS STATEMENT, OBVIOUSLY INSPIRED BY MOSCOW, MIGHT BE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, THE INDISPENSABLE PRECONDITION FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO LEADER IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." THE PAPER SAID IN SUBHEADS, "THE FIERY DECLARATIONS OF GEORGE HABASH AND THE SOOTHING REMARKS OF ARAFAT SEEM TO INDICATE THAT A DISCREET PROCESS OF EVOLUTION TOWARD PEACE IS UNDER WAY. SYRIA MIGHT ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH A NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT."

ROME:

A JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT OF LEFT-OF-CENTER LA STAMPA OF TURIN ASSERTED TODAY THAT THE "VAGUE STATEMENTS" ISSUED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE KISSINGER TALKS "SEEM AIMED ONLY AT CONCEALING THE TRUTH. IT IS NOT CREDIBLE THAT THE PARTIES WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS GENERALITIES ALONE WHEN THE TIME IS GETTING SO SHORT. CLEARLY THIS TRIP, ALTHOUGH CALLED 'EXPLORATORY,' AIMS AT GAUGING THE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH THE PARTIES DO NOT INTEND TO GO AND PRESSURING ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO REVEAL WHERE THEY ARE FLEXIBLE."

A JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT FOR MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD IL GIORNALE OF MILAN WROTE THAT IF SECRETARY KISSINGER IS ABLE TO "TO REACH EVEN A TEMPORARY AND LIMITED AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, HE WILL RESUME HIS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE ONLY AFTER A MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA..."

PRO-COMMUNIST PAESE SERA OF ROME SAID THAT "KISSINGER MUST REALIZE THAT SOME OF THE FORMERLY PRO-ISRAELI U.S. CONGRESSMEN NO UNCLASSIFIED

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LONGER SUPPORT ISRAEL...THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE STORY IS THAT NOW THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE PALESTINIANS WILL BE THE SUFFERERS IN A GAME OF POWER BALANCING."

INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE CORRIERE DELLA SERA OF MILAN RAN SEVERAL ARTICLES ON THE KISSINGER MISSION THAT TREATED IT WITH CAREFUL OPTIMISM.

(END TAKE TWO) UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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